

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 and 35-36 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 5-7, 14-16, 20-21, 27-28, 33-34, and 36 are canceled, claims 1, 8, 10, 17, 19, and 26 are amended, and new claims 37-63 are added. Upon entry of this Amendment, fifty (50) claims will be pending, of which ten (10) are independent (i.e., claims 1, 10, 19, 26, 35, 40, 47, 54, 59, 63). No new matter will be incorporated into the present application by entry of this Amendment. The Patent Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge any additional fees that may be required for entry of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 061910.

In the Office Action mailed July 11, 2003, the Examiner made the restriction requirement in the present application final, objected to claim 36 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 35, rejected claims 1-5, 8, 9, 19, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Voegelé, rejected claims 6, 20, 25, 27, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voegelé, rejected claims 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voegelé in view of Jones, rejected claims 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voegelé in view of Jones, and objected to claims 7, 16, 21, 28, and 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees with each of the rejections, with the Examiner's characterization of the invention, and with the Examiner's characterization of the cited prior art. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims cancelled by this Amendment, and other claims not requiring either of the features previously indicated as being allowable, in future prosecution.

The Examiner has objected to claim 36 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 35. The present Amendment cancels claim 36 and therefore this objection is believed to be moot.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-5, 8, 9, 19, and 26 under 102(b) as being anticipated by Voegelé, rejected claims 6, 20, 25, 27, and 33 under 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Voegelé, rejected claims 10-15 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voegelé in view of Jones, and rejected claims 35-36 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voegelé in view of Jones. The Examiner, however, has indicated that claims 7, 16, 21, 28, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant believes the present Amendment addresses all of these rejections and objections.

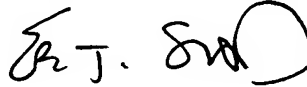
Following entry of the present Amendment, the first five (of ten total) independent claims require the first of the two features the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. For example, amended independent claim 1 now recites "...wherein at least one of the frame members comprises a pair of elongated bodies adapted to be retained in a mated configuration to cooperatively define the first and second channels such that a spacing distance between the mated elongated bodies is adjustable to provide a corresponding channel width, said bodies being adapted to be mated by one or more fasteners extending through each body such that the channel width can be adjusted by adjusting at least one of the fasteners." As the Examiner has indicated this feature to be allowable, independent claims 1, 10, 19, 26, and 35 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Further, the present Amendment submits five new independent claims (i.e., independent claims 40, 47, 54, 59, and 63) each requiring the second of the two features the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. For example, new independent claim 40 recites "...wherein each said slot is defined between a side edge of the first body and an adjacent side edge of the second body, and wherein said adjacent first and second side edges have a divergent configuration." As the Examiner has indicated this feature to be allowable, independent claims 40, 47, 54, 59, and 63 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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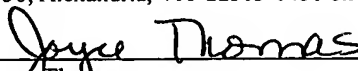
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Joyce Thomas

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